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Topic Wise Content



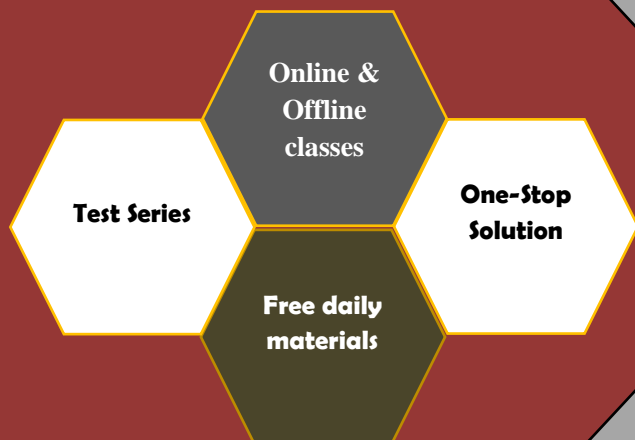
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PANEX-21

Notes for civil services preparation



UPSC

General Studies

PANEX-21

Recently, a **Curtain Raiser Event** for PANEX-21 for the member nations of **Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC)** countries was held recently.

- The exercise is **planned to be conducted later this year (2021)**.

Key Points

▪ **About:**

- It is a **Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief exercise**.
- It will be participated by **subject matter experts and delegates** from India, Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan, Myanmar, Sri Lanka and Thailand.
- A **Multi-Agency Exercise (MAE)** comprising a static display showcasing **Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HDR)** equipment employed by the Indian Armed Forces and various civil agencies will also take place.

▪ **Aim:**

- To **foster joint planning and build regional cooperation** for responding to **natural disasters**.
 - **Natural disasters are sudden ecological disruptions or threats** that exceed the adjustment capacity of the affected community and require external assistance.
 - Natural disasters can be **broadly classified into categories** including geophysical such as **earthquakes** and **volcanic eruptions**, hydrological such as **floods**, meteorological such as hurricanes; climatological such as heat and cold waves and droughts; and biological such as epidemics.

▪ **Importance of the Exercise:**

- **Covid-19 pandemic** along with other natural disasters have **brought out new lessons** which involve a change in drills and procedures for carrying out disaster mitigation and management of disaster.
 - The exercise is **being conducted keeping in mind these changes** and the challenges after the pandemic.

BIMSTEC

- It is a **regional organization which** comprises **seven countries**.

- **Five** of these seven countries- India, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Bhutan and Bangladesh- are **from South Asia** while the remaining **two**, Thailand and Myanmar, are from **Southeast Asia**.
- The group remained dormant for many years till it was revived a few years ago as an alternative to the **South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC)**, which despite having the potential, has not been able to move forward due to friction between India and Pakistan.
- With a focus on intra-regional cooperation, the BIMSTEC has also formed a platform with the **SAARC** and the **Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)** member countries.
- **Secretariat:** Dhaka, Bangladesh.

